PARIS AT THE THEATRE.

Establishing Popular Opera Under Princely Patronage.

HUSSON AND MARTINET.

Jules Claretie's Drama of Revolutionary Days.

PARIS. Nov. 8, 1879. The last formight has been signalized by an event of some importance—the inauguration of the Popular Opera, a musical theatre which aspires to the er of a great democratic institution. For years past there has been so much discussion, so declamation, on the necessity of an opera for the people, spart from that of the aristocracy, that many well intentioned persons have become sincerely persuaded that it is a want that has made itself seriously felt. The idea has obtained all the more partisans from the fact that it seemed all the opportune and that it became the special duty of the Republic to realize it. But, in truth, the hu manitarian theorists and philosophers who desire to refine popular manners by diffusing a taste for music among the masses exhibit a solicitude that is perfectly useless. From the top to the bottom of the social scale the French in general, and Parisians in particular, are by no means musically inclined. The majority of the people who go to the opera go only for fashion's sake, and bore themselves there the time. The musical preferences of the Fille de Mme. Angot," "La Marseillaise," "Les oches de Corneville." and "L'Amant d'Amanda." om to them, each in its style, of a melodious merit far superior to that of the cheft d'ouere of ssini, Mozart or Meyerbeer.

It would, therefore, be much simpler to acknowledge, after the unfortunate experiences of the past, that a third musical theatre would have no chance of success, and that, next to the Grand Opers and the Opera Comique, the public care only for the music of the operata, which pleases and amuses them. Unforunately no one cares to proclaim this fact from the fear of being treated as profane. It is true that if there continues to be a question of the popular opers and of a theatre lyrique in official circles, no great empressement is exhibited to re-establish the old subvention without which those theatres cannot exist. The government postpones action until the Chambers vote it, and, to keep the candidate directors patient, it is prodigal of encouraging assurances; on the other hand the Deputies and Senators, assailed with similar demands, declare themselves ready to vote the subvention as soon as the government pro-

PATRIOTIC MINISTER TURQUET. This state of things may last indefinitely, and the reflection having occurred to two ingenious speculators, they determined to force the Minister to action. with this view hired a theatre-the Gaieté where a lyrical enterprise of the same character had already failed. They adopted for the new establishment the title of the Opera Populaire. "In this way." they said to themselves, "having secured possession of the title we shall compel the governnt to give us the subvention

Since then there has appeared in the newspapers succession of skilfully written articles appealing to the government in favor of the two clever specu ors, MM. Husson and Martinet. But the intervenn of the press has proved absolutely useles The government has persisted in its abstention. And when the two directors, impatient, finding that there was no prospect of the subvention at last desided to wait upon the Minister, M. Turquet feel-

oided to wait upon the Minister, M. Turquet feelingly squeezed their hands and said to them in a tone full of emotion:—
"Cest bien. You have undertaken a noble and generous enterprise. It remained for us patriots to prove that there was no need of the deniers of the taxpayers for the foundation of a popular opera. Your initiative alone will suffice."

Despite all this these gentlemen do not despair of obtaining official aid. They hope to get it by making sacrifices, and they have adopted the plan of indulging in prodigalities, which is all the more easy for them, inasmuch as they have a capitalist at their back who is rich, generous and devoted to them—the Comte Rivale de Rouville. This Mæcenas has, moreover, a predilection for difficult enterprises, and it would not be easy to enumerate the theatres that he has already sustained with his money. The two partners have not been individually fortunate in the business which they have hitherto undertaken. But M. de Rouville does not mind that, and, besides, it is worthy of remark that in France it is generally people who have never succeeded in anything to whom capitalists are most ready to accord their confidence.

SKETCH OF THE DIRECTORS.

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SKETCH OF THE DIRECTORS.

Notwithstanding their managerial misfortunes, it cannot be contested that the two protégés of M. de Bouville possess a certain artistic and administrative capacity. M. Husson is an old provincial manager. He was long at the head of one of our first class provincial theatres, the Grand Theatre of Marseilles, where he produced the most celebrated artists of the day. Ambitious to carry things to the highest point of perfection and grandeur he ended, notwithstanding his large receipts, by falling a victim to the insufficiency of the municipal subvention and his exaggerated expenditure. He came to Paris to accomplish the realization of the dearest object of his ambition. What he aims at, what he hopes to attain, is the direction of the Grand Opera.

"Halanier has had it," he has often said to me, "why should I not obtain it—he came from the provinces like myself?"

His aspirations will not soon be accomplished. And yet M. Husson would be ready to make concessions in regard to the amount of the subvention—always, of course, in keeping M. de Rouville as a commanditaire.

The second director of the Opéra Populaire, M. Martinet, is better known to the Parisians. He was formerly director of the Fantaisies Parisionnes, then of the Theatre Lyrique—a theatre lyrique without a subvention, which he installed in a subterrance as alle—a sort of dramatic cave, which has since become a theatre for women, where the at-

Martinet, is better known to the Parisians. He was formerly director of the Fantaisies Parisionnes, then of the Theiare Lyrique—a theatre lyrique without a subvention, which he installed in a subterranean salle—a sort of dramatic cave, which has since become a theatre for women, where the attractions are prurient little vaudevilles and reviews of the year—'Athenee Comique. Previous to that he had aiready been engaged in different enterprises, the souvenirs of which have been loat to memory, and in which he was uniformly unsuccessful. But the most curious features in the career of M. Martinet are the circumstances which enabled him to get capital to back him the first time.

It was on the 24th of February, 1848. Louis Philippe had just been overthrown by a victorious revolution. The Chamber of Deputies was invaded, as is generally the case on such occasions. The fallen power was defended by no one. It was abandoned even by the Deputies, the majority of whom had so blindly sustained the Guizot Ministry. It was at this historical moment, in the minat of a popular drama, that occurred the scene of maternal heroism the memory of which has become legendary. Everyone knows that the Duchesse O'Dieans, accompanied by two or three faithful servants, and holding the little Conte de Paris by the hand, fearlessly traversed the crowd and crossed the barricades in order to ponstrate into the Corps Legislatif and get her son recognized by the representatives of the nation as the successor of his grandfather. Louis Philippe. Equally well known is the reply made to her appeal from the tribune by Lamartine—"It est trop lard."

If was not without effort, in fact, that the courageous princess succeeded in reaching the hemicyole of the Assembly. She found there such a pête mête of men, women and National Guards that she was near fainting in the mides of them, to not the substantial of them to the root and fine presented to the people and to the Corps Legislatif had disappeared. One can conceive the anguish of the mother and of those

From that time the name of "Martinet" became dear to the Orieans family.

Whenever M. Martinet opened a new theatre he could count on the substantial support of the Princes. When exiled from the soil of France their money could all the same penetrate there, and it never failed to do so in his favor. M. Martinet never having been able to count a successful engagement in his career it may rosely be imagined that the amount contributed to his enterprises by the family must have been considerable. I am assured that it has not been less than from 500,000f, to 600,000f. It was, therefore, not without a certain degree of apprehension that the Princes learned recently that he was about to establish an "Opéra Populaire," or, in other words, a theatre very important in its aims and very costly.

"Rest awhile, my dear Martinet," they kindly said to him, "you have worked hard enough as it is,"

to him, "you have worked hard enough as it is."
Fortunately for the branche cadette it is M. de Rouville who this time undertakes the expense of M.

fartinet's operations.

EQUIPMENT OF THE NEW VENTURE.

And the expense is already heavy, for things have
see well done. It is only a few days since the Opera

Populaire has been opened, and yet it cannot be reproached with being deficient in scenery, in costumes, in figurants, in chorus singers or in musicians. It is nobly provided in all these details. All that is wanting to it is singers. After so pompous a programme, after hawing announced a regeneration of the lyrical art and the substitution of the promiers sigets of the opera by new artists of genius, MM. Husson, Martinet & Co. can only present to us in the way of revelation artists that we knew fifteen years ago at the Grand Opera or that we heard recently at the Opera Comique—old wornout tenors, baritones whose engagements have never been renewed and provincial medicertites—such is the artistic bilan of the Opera Populaire.

With this it will certainly fail to make brilliant receipts, especially from a public which prefers Lecocq and Offenbach to Herold and Donizetti, and which can only be induced to patronize serious operas by the attraction of great names, such as those of Patti, Faure and Capoul. But, as regards financial considerations, it must be acknowledged that the directors indulge in no illusions. This is not the first time—nor will it be the last—that they have fining away money. Each has his special philosophy. M. de Rouville does not occupy himself about the receipts. He thinks only of the subvention which he is determined to obtain at any cost, were it even ten times the amount. It is with him a fixed idea, a question of amour propre. M. Husson thinks only of his distant and hypothetical direction of the Grand Opera. Every thing unconnected with this dream of the tuture is perfectly indifferent to him, not excepting even the Opera Populaire. As regards M. Martinet, no matter what may be the amount of the receipts, relating suconnected with this dream of the tuture is perfectly indifferent to him, not excepting even the Opera Populaire, As regards M. Martinet, no matter what may be the amount of the receipts, on matter what may be the amount of the receipts, on the total received at his new theat day, but one evening (it was during the troubles that signalized the end of the Empire), when between the Faubourg Montmartre and the Madeleine signalized the end of the Empire), when between the Faubourg Montmarire and the Madeleine charges of cavairy were being made to disperse the crowd, the terrified badauds took refuge wherever they could find a place of shelter. The theatres that were situated on the Boulevards or in their neighborhood offered the readiest means of escape, and of course they all profited by the panic. The Lyrique was among the number, and on this particular evening its receipts assumed unusual proportions. Intoxicated with his good fortune M. Martinet rushed into the couluses and assembled the members of his company. "Mex enfants," he said to them, "the vogue is returning to us. I shall only take 150f, this evening from the receipts. I invite you all to supper," And, in fact, the happy event was feted at the Café Anglais by the whole troupe, after the performance. At the end of this artistic and culmary manifestation a telegram was despatched to the Orieans Princes, giving an account of the prosperity of the Theatre Lyrique.

SARDOU'S NEW PLAY.

M. Sardou has read his new play to the Committee of the Theatre Français. It is a piece in five acts. "The production of this drama will be," save the Paris correspondent of the London Daily Telegraph, "the début of the still young and prolific author at the Maison de Molière, and the event will prove to be one of more than ordinary theatrical interest. This must be my excuse for speaking of a new play before it has ever been read; but I am bound to add that in doing so I am not acting contrary to the wishes of M. Sardon himself. All that can be said about the subject of the play at this early date, however, is that the lover, although an atheist, is a man of the lottiest and noblest character, and the very soul of honor, while the heroine is strong in her conviction of the truth of Christianity, it is on the separation of these mutually attached beings by the antagonism of their religious belieffit he word can be applied to a negation of faith—that the whole plot turns. But it has not been M. Sardou's aim to draw what may be called political contrast between Ultramontanism and Free Thought. In order, it may be assumed, to svoid this conclusion, he has represented his heroine to be a Protestant. The scene of the drama is laid on the shores of the Lake of Geneva, and the action takes place in the midst of the Anglo-American society there assembled. The cast of the play will naturally not be definitively settled till after the reading, but the author has written with certain artistes of the Comedie Française in his mind's eye. Iunderstand that he originally destined the principal characters for Mile. Sarah Bernhardt and M. Worms, but as the work progressed the character of both personages became modified in his creative hands. The heroine grew of softer mould and the lover more mature in years. M. Sardou's present idea is that Mile. Bartet shall enact the part of a heroine in whom he has reproduced his ideal of womanhood, while Delaunay is to personity the hero. The character of an old Protestant isdy, who delights in distributing tracts, visiting the poor and airing her religious ideas in and out of season, is to be portrayed by Mile. Joussesin, while the part of a servant will be assigned either to Coquelin or to Thrico; the heroine's younger sister will probably be Mile. Baretta, and M. Febre will undertake one of those secondary characters of which he knows how to make so much." himself. All that can be said about the subject of the play at this early date, however, is that the

WITCH BURNING IN RUSSIA.

STRANGE STORY OF FANATICISM-A VILLAGE GIRL BURNED BECAUSE SHE WAS THOUGHT TO HAVE THE EVIL EYE. (From the London Standard.)

BERLIN, Nov. 7, 1879. The following is the full history of a remarkable case which has recently occurred in Russia. Agragovernment of Novgorod. But the people of the place having, from her early youth, made up their minds that she had the "evil eye," nothing could eradicate that impression. Being branded with this reputation it naturally followed that powers of divination and enchantment were attributed to her, including the ability to sicknesses. In spite, however, of the supernatural skill with which she was credited she met with no skill with which she was credited she met with no suitor save a poor soldier. She accepted him gladly, and going with him, shortly after her marriage, to St. Petersburg, Wratschewo lost sight of her for some twelve years. She was, however, by no means forgotten there; for when, after the death of her husband, she again betook herself to the home of her childhood, she found that her old reputation still clung to her. The news of her return spread like wildire, and general disaster was anticipated from her injurious spells. This, however, was, from fear, talked of only behind her back, and dread of her at length reached such a plich that the villagers and their wives sent her presents and assisted her in every way, boping thereby to get into her good graces and so escape being practised upon by her infernal arts. As she was now fifty years of age, somewhat weakly, and therefore unable to earn a living, these attentions were by no means unwelcome, and she therefore did nothing to disabuse her neighbors' minds. Their superstition enabled her to live comfortably and without care, and she knew very well that any assurances she might give would not have produced the slightest effect. A short time after her return to Wratschewo several women fell ill. This was of course laid at the door of Ignatjewa, particularly as one of these women, the daughter of a peasant, had been attacked immediately after being refused a slight favor by her. Whenever any misfortune whatsoever happened in the village all fingers pointed to Ignatjewa as the source of it. At the beginning of the present year ad dismissed soldier, in the interest of the community, actually instituted criminal precedings against her before the local urgadnik, the chief of the police of the district, the immediate of the present year ad dismissed soldier, in the interest of the community, actually instituted criminal precedings against her before the local urgadnik, the chief of the police of the district, the immediate of the present year ad dismissed soldier, in t suitor save a poor soldier. She accepted him gladly,

ceedings against her before the local rigidink, the chief of the police of the district, the immediate charge preferred being that she had bewitched his wife.

THE VILLAGERS GROW EXCITED.

Meanwhile the feeling in the village against her became so intensified that it was resolved by the beople, pending the decision on the complaint that had been lodged, to take the law into their hands so far as to fasten her up in her cottage. The execution of this resolve was not delayed a moment. Led by Kauschin, Nikisorow, Starovij and an old man of seventy, one Schipenak, whose wife and daughters were at the time supposed to be suffering from witcheraft, a crowd of villagers set out on the way to Ignatigwa's dwelling. Nikisorow had provided himself with hammer and nails, and Iwanow with some chips of pine wood "to amoke out the bad spirits." Finding the cottage deer locked they beat it in, and while a portion of thom nailed up the windows the remainder crowded in and announced to the terrified woman that by unanimous decision she was, for the present, to be kept fastened up in her house. Some of them then proceeded to look through the rooms, where they found, unfortunately, several bottles containing medicaments. Believing these to be enchanted potions, and, therefore, conclusive proofs of Ignaticwa's guilt, it was decided, on the suggestion of Nikisorow, to burn her and her deviliah work there and then. "We must put an end to it," shouted the peasants in chorus; "if we lot her off now we shall be bewitched one and all." Kauschin, who held in his hand a lighted chip of pine wood, which he had used "to smoke out the spirits" and to light him about the premises, instantly applied it to a bundle of straw lying in a room, after which all hastily loft. Ignatjewa attempted in vain to follow them. The agonized woman then tried to get out at the windows, but these were already nailed up. In front of the cottage atod the peaple, blankly starting at the spreading flames and listening to the cries of their victim without moving a mus

were now made to her to confess herself a witch, the brother joining, probably in the hope that if she did so her life might be spared. "But I am entirely innocent," the poor woman cried out. One of the bystanders—apparently the only one in possession of his five senses—made another attempt as rescue, but was hindered by the mob. He then in loud tenes warned them of the punishment which would certainly await them, but in vam; no attention was paid to him. On the contrary, the progress of the fames not appearing rapid anough, it was endeavored to accelerate them by shoving the snow from the roof and loosening the framework. The fire now extended rapidly, one beam after another blazed up, and at length the roof fell in on the wretched woman. The sakes smouldered the whole night. On the following morning nothing was found remaining but the charred bones of Ignatiews. The idea now, it would seem, occurred to the murderers that perhaps, after all, their action had not been altogether lawful. They accordingly resolved to bribe the local authority, who had already viewed the scene of the affair, to hush it up. For this purpose they made a collection and handed him the proceeds—iwently-one rubles ninety copecks. To their astonishment he did not accept the money, but at once reported the horrible doed to his superior officer. Sixteen of the villagers were, in consequence, brought up for trial at Tichwin before the bistrict Court of Novgorod on the charge of murdering Agrafona Ignatjewa in the manner above described. After a protracted hearing with jury the following result was arrived at:—Kauschin, who had ansisted in accelerating the burning, and Nikisorow, the prime mover in the matter, who had nailed up the windows, were found guilty and sentenced by the judge to some slight occleriatical penance, while the remaining thirteen, including the aged Schipensk—who had used his influence to prevent a rescue—went scot free.

FOREIGN NOTES.

The long pending "disruption" between the Jesuit Order in England and Cardinal Manning, representa tive of the regular order of the Roman Catholic clergy, is to be inquired into by the Pontiff. The head of the Manoza Jesuit College, at Roehampton, is at present in Rome preparing for the condict, and he will be joined by the head of the Order. Car-dinal Manning left for Rome on the 15th inst.

dinal Manning left for Rome on the 15th inst.

The attempt made this summer to divert the Annu Darya into the Caspian with native help having failed a commission of European engineers has been appointed to undertake the work with all the appliances of modern science. The gentlemen intrusted with the important undertaking are Herren Holmström, Bolle, Helmann and Roop, who have just left St. Petersburg for Khiva. They will be accompanied and protected by a military force under General Gluchowski, and are expected to remain a year or two in Turkestan.

The condition of Ireland mays the London Ex-

two in Turkestan.

The condition of Ireland, says the London E aminer, is attracting great attention in Russia, an the newspapers contain numerous articles descriling the distress existing in the Emerald Isle. Now Fremya affirms, on the strength of advices froi Ireland, that the Irish are enly waiting for a rujure between Russia and Rugland to rise en maz and declare their independence. That this is ser ously believed by many Russian politicians is show by the intelligence from Moscow that Aksakoff an several other noted Panslavitas have promised give subscriptions toward the cause if applied by the promoters of the Irish revolutionary movement.

ment.

The late Duke of Brunswick's sealed packet has been found. The document reads:—"To M. de Munchhausen, to my Marshal of the Court, Superior Councillor of State—I wish that after my death I may be put into a coffin of which this is the description:—Let it be of a similar form to that of my father's, only larger still; let it be made of the firest wood, lined with the best dark red Genoese velvot, abundantly garnished with gold lace and fringes." The document continues in a similar strain throughout, except that at one passage there is a paragraph ordaining that the lid should be constructed "so that in case I may not be quite dead I may be able to open it myself from the inside."

The Vatican is preparing for a Consistory, to be

open it myself from the inside."

The Vatican is preparing for a Consistory, to be held about the middle of December, when a highly important Allocution, reviewing the condition of the Church and supplying a narrative and explanation of Leo XiII.'s administration during his Pontificate will be published. His Holiness is also preparing a long Encyclical Letter, in which will be empering a long Encyclical Letter, in which will be empering a long Encyclical Letter, in which will be empering a long fine of a scheme for the renovation and transformation of ecclesissical education throughout the world, from which a great amelioration of the intellectual and moral characteristics of the priesthood is expected. The Pope has entirely secluded himself for some days past and will continue to do so for some time more, in order to labor uninterruptedly at this work.

The illustrated paper being sot up in Post for the

The illustrated paper being got up in Paris for the benefit of the Murcian sufferers promises to be a very splendid affair. The popular edition will be 300,000 copies at one franc each; but in addition very splendid affair. The popular edition will be 300,000 copies at one franc each; but in addition there will be a special issue on Chinese paper, for which any obtainable price will be charged. Plon lends his presses to print both issues. The paper will contain fac-similes of the autographs of all the European severeigns and chief statesmen. Doré, Meissonier, Worms, Neuville and Detaille will assist with their pencils. Got contributes an article on the "Comedie Française," Broglie writes on the "French Academy." Naquet on "Divorce," Sardou on "Materialism," and Rothschild will pen the "City Article." Victor Hugo and Gambetta are also expected to contribute.

pected to contribute.

Another conflict i as occurred between Spanish and Portuguese fishermen at Tairra, on the coast of Algarve. It is stated that 600 Portuguese fishermen attacked some Spanish fishing smacks which were plying their trade in Portuguese waters. The Portuguese cut the nots of their rivals, boarded the smacks and threw their cargoes of fish overboard and inflicted other damage. Count Casal Ribeiro, newly appointed Minister to the Court of Madrid, has hastened his departure to the Spanish capital to prevent by diplomatic means this question from assuming more serious importance. The Portuguese gunboat Tamigs is about to proceed to the coast of Algarve in consequence of the conflict. She has on board the naval Capitain José Allemno, who has been appointed by the Portuguese govern-

ment to confer with the Spanish delegates who are awaiting his arrival at the scene of the encounter.

Major Serpa Pinto has arrived at Lisbon from Southampton and has had an interview with the Minister of Marine. He intends to visit his native place, the Douro, where he hopes to re-establish his health. The editors of the Lisbon paper Commercio de I'oriugal have been waited upon by two of Major Serpa Pinto's friends, one a distinguished professor and author, the other a lieutenant in the Portuguese navy, demanding an explanation of a passage in an article on African exploration published in the sixty-sixth number of the said journal. The passage which the Major regarded as injurious to his honor is the following:—'That he (the Major) practised an act of distoyalty in abandoning his companions, capello and Iveno.' The editors' explanation has satisfied Major Pinto's friends, for it appears that the meaning intended to be conveyed in the article alluded to was that the explorer was, in the opinion of the writer of the sritele, bound in duty to accompany his fellow explorers to the end of their journey.

The following explorers to the end of their journey.

pany his fellow explorers to the end of their journey.

The following scientific papers have been received by Mr. Oscar Dickson at Gothenburg, from the members of the exploring party who have accompanied Professor Nordenskjöld, and will shortly appear in print:—"Of the Possibility of Trading in the Siberian Arctic Sess," by Professor Nordenskjöld, and dedicated to the King of Sweden; "Ot the Position of the Aurora Borealis in Space" and "The Habits and Customs of the Tschuktschers," by the same; "Dictionary of the Tschuktschers," by the same; "Dictionary of the Tschuktschers," Studies on the Sense of Color of the Tschuktschers," "Studies on the Sense of Color of the Tschuktschers" and "Lichunologic Researches on the North Coast of Siberia," by M. E. Almquist; "Of the Yegetation of the Aliga in the Siberian Arctic Seas" and "Of the Vegetation on the North Coast of Siberia," by M. F. R. Kyellman; "Of the Fauns of the Invertebra in the Siberian Arctic Sea." by M. Anton Stuzberg, Several of these papers are accompanied by drawings, illustrations and charts showing how hard and conscientiously the explorers have worked.

The Pather Lioyd contains the following information concerning the preparations made by the Austrian government for the defence of the Tyroi: drawings, illustrations and charis showing how hard and conscientiously the explorers have worked. The Pather Lioyd contains the following information concerning the preparations made by the Austrian government for the defence of the Tyrol:—"The Southern frontier of the Tyrol is at every point in a perfect state of defence. It is protected by sixteen well armed forts, varying in size from the largest dimensions to the smallest. Several of these works of defence have been constructed with reference to the progress which of late years has been made in artillery. The x-doubts can, in case of need, be transformed into centres of defence, around which trenches can be dug. The Point, the fortification of which has last been completed, commands the entrance to the Valley of sardaro. The armament of this point, though not yet begun, will shortly be commenced, General Keil, chief of the Military Engineering Department at Insprück, is directing the construction of new fortifications at two different points. These latter are works of considerable importance, both from their nosition and their extent. Other not less important fortifications have just been constructed on Mount Brione, situated between Torbole and Riva, commanding the road from Rovered to the Lake of Gards. Lastly, the Valley of Primor, which derives its strategical importance from the deflies which lead to Venetia, has just been placed in communication with Fleims by a good military road."

Hadachi Loja, the Abd-el-Kader of Bosnia, is now undergoing a five years' sentence at the fortress of Theresicostadt. The ex-insurgent leader is reported to be anything out cast down at his present fate. He expects—and not without resson, it is said—that much of his sentence will be remitted, in which case he intends to return to Serajevo and set up a tailor's business, as he is much enchanted with the sarterial art, the rudiments of which he is now acquiring in prison. A strict Mohammedan and punctual to his praying times, he has, with the money collected by the sale of

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EVERY MAN HIS OWN VINTNER

Arts of the Gastronome Unfolded to the Lay Public.

[Paris correspondence of the London Times.] ere is nothing people speak more often about Bordeaux wine, and yet nothing, perhaps, about which people are more ignorant. I can say so without offence to anybody, for I confess that was precisely one of those who buy Bordeaux, drink it, converse on it, and yet are really in ignorance the grands crus of the Gironde if I succeed in dis pelling a few mistakes and giving some of your readers more correct notions of that most useful and agreeable art-the art of drinking Bordeaux. of the first, second, taird, fourth and fifth classes, and, according to the Bordelsis, the classification subjoined is perfectly correct;—First class— Château Lafitte, Château Margaux, Château Latour; second class-Mouton, Rauzan, Léoville, Lascombes, Gruaud-Larose, Brane-Cantenac, Pichon-Longueville, Cos-d'Estournel, Montrose; third class-Kirwan Château-d'Issan, Lagrange, Langos, Giscours, Male scot-Saint-Exupery, Brown-Cantenac, Palmer; fourth class—Saint-Pierre, Branaire-du-Luc, Talbot, Duhart Milon, Chateau-Beychevelle; fifth class-Pontet-Canet, Patailley, Grand-Puy-Lacoste, Mouton-d'Armaillac, Belgrave, Camensac, Cos-Labory, Clerc-Milon, Croizel-Bages, Cantemerie. Below the fifth class be gins what is known as vin bourgeois. Then comes le vin d'artism, and lastly le vin de paysan. This classifi-cation has been made by the public according to the different prices at which the vintages are sold. On an average a second class vintage brings 1,600f. to 1,800f. per ton; a third class, 1,300f. to 1,400f.; a fourth, 1,100f., and a fifth, 1,000f. Below the fifth class the good bourgeous brings 700f. or 800f. and good payson formerly 250f. to 350f., but this year already 500f., and it will get still dearer owing to the poorness of this year's vintage and the rayages of the phylloxera, which has already assailed the commoner vineyards of the Gironde. In the Upper Medoc there are three first class vintages beyoud criticism—the Lafitte-Rothschild, the Châtean-Margaux and the Château-Latour. These three vintages are rivals as it were. The vintage of 1878 of these first three classes is still unsold. Neither of them will sell cheaper than the others. Margaux is waiting for Lafitte to fix its price, and Latour is stationary till the other two move. Lafitte, I was told. expects 6,000f. a ton for its 1878. Buyers hesitate the three great vintages of the Upper Médoc meanwhile remain in their cellare the first and the second classes is the Monton Rothschild, the average price of which is from 2,400f. to 2,800f. per tun-s vintage which has the qualities of the first class with certain suferiorities of the second. A late proprietor of the Mouton, whose vineyards were contiguous with those of Lafitte, had written on a boundary stone between them, "Hicest bounds vi The proprietor of Lantte wrote on the other side of the stone, "Hic est melius." The position of Mouton is exactly defined by this anecdote. It is a Mouton is exactly defined by this anecdote. It is a widely diffused idea that the name is the guarantee of the quality of the wine. This is incorrect. Alongside the name must be the year. There are years when the best vineyards have produced the poorest wines, and other years when the second and third and fourth class vineyards are superior to the first class. Only this is very unusual and can occur to wines of all classes. Thus the year 1877 was very poor for the first classes, and the instance is cited of the Cos d'Estournel du Chateau de Pornys, which one year refused the price of 2,800f.—a very high one for a second class—for a vintage of 200 tuns, and which wound up after some years of resistance by selling for 800f. per ton.

LES GRANDES ANNEES.

solitint for 800t, per ton.

Sometimes when the wine iof middling quality, the propriets when the wine the mark, test it should damage his reputation. At Bordeaux the good years are known by heart, Everybody knows that 1870, 1871 and 1876 were in general good years, and that is 74 was what is called me groade cance. The Latto, Marguar, Latour, Mouton, Cos of Zatour, and that is 74 was what is called me groade cance. The Latto, Marguar, Latour, Mouton, Cos of Catour, and the selection of the control of the contr

year, but in the good years it is about 4,000f. per tun, and a part of the vintage often tetches 6,000f. Some years have sold for 6,000f. and partially for 10,000f.; but there have been years when the general price only reached 1,000f., 1,400f., 1,700f., 2,000f., 2,500f. and 3,000f. The best years were 1859, 1861, 1885, 1874, and 1875. The year 1878 was excellent, but it has not yet been sold. On the contrary, the year 1860 was of wretched quality and did not sell for 1,000f. The year 1877 is poor and 1879 is still poorer. 1847, however, had a curious history. In the attumn of 1849 business was dull, money scarce, and the vintage being declared inferior, the crop was sold at 500f. a tun. A little later politics were quiet, business revived, and it was discovered that the Château Yquem of 1847 was the best wine the vineyard had ever produced. In 1859 the Grand Duke Constantine, passing through Bordeaux, bought one of the few remaining barrols for 25,000f., and 52f. a bottle. The vineyards cover about ninety hectares and belong to the Marquis de Lur Saluces, who lives two kilomètres further on at the Château Filhot, where there is also a good wine. Château Yquem is an almost uninhabitable castle, one front as old as the thirteenth century, but a place built for defence, not for style. The terrace commands a charming view of the bend of the Garonne from St. Macaire and Cadillac, where the Duc d'Epernon formerly intercepted the traffic on the river, to Bordeaux. The vineyards are spread like a carpet on the gentie slope round the castle, a different shade of green distinguishing them. from neighboring vineyards. This year the duntity is abundant, but the quality poor, and the bottles which leave the cellar will not bear the Yquem mark, for they would jeopardize its reputation.

Diragnitudes.

hottles which leave the cellar will not bear the Yquem mark, for they would jeopardize its reputation.

Disarthous Champagne its reputation.

In Champagne, at the other end of France, a disaster has occurred unparalleled for sixty years. Not a bottle of winch has been harvested; the loss is terrible for the small grower and mounts up to 25,000f. for the whole department. The grape did not ripen, and it has been gathered only in order to prevent trespassers from entering the vineyards and damaging them. There is now a stock of 72,000,000 bottles in Champagne, of which 35,000,000 or 40,000,000 are in the hands of the great firms. The remainder is of doubtful origin and even boyond the producing area of Champagne; but this year wines which had long been a drug in the hands of speculators will be bought up. for everybody dreads the consequences of a blank year. The exportation of real champagne is eighteen or twenty million bottles a year, so that the existing stock will have to serve for 1880 and 1881, and will just suffice. Should next year's vintage fail the houses which sell genuine champagne would be reduced, to use the expression of one or them, to shutting up shop. The price, however, has not yet risen. The first class houses, as Werle, who has the Yeave Clicquot mark; Röderer, long in repute; Pommery and Grene, also commanding confidence and celebrity; Yroi, who has an enormous extent of the best vineyards—Moët, so popular on the Continent and others—taking into consideration the general interest of the department, are standing out against a rise in price in order not to narrow the circle of consumers. Werle has three or four million bottles, Röderer as many, Pommery and Grene, rather less, as also Yroi, but Moët is asid to have five or six millions, and all these firms can meet orders for 1880 and 1881, and will wait for next year's vintage before raising their prices, so as to be guided by it. The consumers, for during last month, orders have been doubling on all hands, especially from England, where a sc

GRANT AND THE SOUTH.

STRONG UNDERCURRENT IN NORTH CAROLINA IN FAVOR OF "THE MAN ON HORSEBACK" AND ALEXANDER H. STEPHENS-WHY THE HEBO OF APPOMATTOX WILL SCEIVE A LOYAL BECEPTION. WILMINGTON. N. C., Nov. 20, 1879.

The letter of your Atlanta correspondent concerning the "boom" of Grant and Stephens has struck a popular chord here, and has consequently caused no little excitement, as in Atlanta an "undercurrent" is now flowing strongly among the best democrats in favor of a non-partisan ticket. Go where you will, among the lawyers, business men or laboring classes, you will hear enthusiastic comments on Grant being he strongest man in political America, Ever sine he landed on the shores of California the sentiment in his favor has largely increased, and now there is a popular feeling here, which, laying aside all former prejudices of a "third term," believes "man on horseback" is the man to save the government from downfall and ruin. His constituents argue that experience has taught Grant "better manners;" that he has learned the Presidential ropes to advantage; that age and travel have "tempered him down," and the partisan President of vesterday will be the unbiased man of to-morrow, uniting his every effort, not for the good of the "solid North" or the "solid South," but for of the "solid North" or the "solid South," but for the solid Union. This has been the prevailing sentiment, for long before old Alexander H. Stephens was thought of as a candidate for the Vice Presidency, and since this non-partisan ball has been started, a unanimous thrill has run through Southern politics in favor of Grant and Stephens, It is the sincers belief of your correspondent that this State, and, indeed, every other Southern State, will send a unanimous support for this tiexet. The ball has gained too much momentum to stop now. Many democrats have spoken of the feasibility of Grant being nomi-

State, will send a unanimous support for this ticket. The ball has gained too much momentum to stop now. Many democrats have spoken of the feasibility of Grant being nominated by the Democratic Convention, and by thus "aghting the devil with fire" they may yet defeat republicaniam in 1880. Mr. Settle was sharp enough to see that if some Southern man of prominence was placed on a ticket with Grant the South would carry it through by storm; but he made a decided mistake when he took up an idea that he was the man. He might possibly have carried North Carolina and Florida, but as for the other States, why, they would treat his nomination with utter contempt. Alexander H. Stephens is the man to whom the South looks, and with Grant's name and influence at the head of the icket, both will secure the unanimous support of the "solid South."

Grant's proposed visit to the South will be the biggest "boom" of the period and will be the means of increasing his already large popularity here. The editors of the Wilmington Marming Star, like true Southerners, have spoken kindly of his coming and promised him, in behalf of the people, a hearty welcome. On the other hand, an evening sheet, the Review, has expressed most bissed and unmanly sentiments about his coming, and declares itself not willing to "take any stock" in the reception of so base a partisan as Ulysees S. Grant. The South has not so far forgotten herself as to allow a celebrity who has received favors from the courts of every nation of the world to enter her midst without due appreciation of his position. No; Grant will receive a right royal reception, such as none but the South can give and such as none but Grant could receive a light royal reception, such as none but the South can give and such as none but Grant could receive a light royal reception, such as none but the South can give and such as none but Grant could receive a light royal reception, such as none but the South can give and such as none but Grant could receive a light of the State.

In reference

GENERAL GRANT'S FUTURE. A Chicago despatch to the Cincinnati Com

A Chicago despatch to the Cincinnati Commercial of the 20th inst., says:—

A personal friend of General Grant savises your correspondent that that distinguished citizen is more concerned about employment than anything else. He has but a small fortune, and the General says he must now address himself to his own business. He is anxious to get to Philadelphia, where, it is understood, his personal affairs are discussed and looked after. From there he will go to Havans and Mexico, unless, he says, he should be advised of a business opening, in which case he would not go to Mexico. This points directly to the Nicaragua Canal, in which he has always taken deep interest. General Grant was educated an engineer, and to be at the head of a company, to build such a wast work, in which the nations of Europe, as well as America, are interested, would be to creet a monument to himself. Here would be additional fame, congenial occupation and handsome salary, whoreas in a Presidential candidacy there could be no additional reputation and might be great poril. If, however, the coveted employment should not offer, then Grant would yield to the pressure of his friends and the spoilsmen and consent to take the Presidency. This, undoubtedly, correctly represents Grant's position to-day. But it is also certain that the family and the spoilsmen are not looking to any Nicaraguan canal. They are seeking the Presidency and the power which it carries with it. They have head this in view since the tour was begun, and have been working to that end. They have had this in view since the tour was begun, and have been working to that end. They have had the influence of the government and a powerful press to help on the work of creating sentiment to carry Grant back to the White House. The most efficient worker of the ring engaged in this is the Assistant Postmaster General. Several trips have been made to prepare and make pisin the way. Latterly E. B. Washburne and his Galens coworkers have joined in and are pushing on the "boom." These are so

VIRGINIA POLITICS.

VIRTUAL TRIUMPH OF THE REPUBLICANS AT THE LAST ELECTIONS-THE QUESTION OF PAY-ING THE STATE DEBT-INTERVIEW WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE REPUBLICAN STATE COM-

RICHMOND, Nov. 20, 1879. The recent alliance of the rank and file of the republican party with the readjusters' wing of the old conservative party, has produced a most confused and extraordinary condition of political affairs in the Old Dominion. This alliance or affiliation has resulted in carrying a majority of both branches of the General Assembly, which meets on the 4th of December next, on which body will devolve the election of the State officials, county judges and a United States Senator to succeed Senator Withers. Upon the casting vote of the republicans, who are in a minority in the General Assembly, will depend the election of these officials, and upon their action will also depend the political tuture of Virninia, as regards party ascendancy. In view of the complicated state of affairs thus briefly outlined, the Henald correspondent to-day called upon Major B. Hoxey, who is the chairman of the Republican State Executive Committee, to ascertain his views on the situation. Mr. Hoxey, besides occupying the position he does as a republican, is also, singular to say, a rendjuster. He was formerly Assistant United States District Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, and, disregarding President Hayes' civil service rules, chose to retain his position as chairmain of the Republican State Committee, and thereby orfeited his office. He has very decided conviction and is independent enough to maintain them.

CORRESPONDENT-What are your views about the late election and its results, especially as affecting the prospects of your party in this State?

Mr. HOXEY—I have little to say on the matter that has not already been said and reported in the HERALD. One thing, however, I want to note, and that is that the Northern press and the so-called conservative press of this State have been guilty of tion." There was no such issue in the cauvass. Both sides repel the charge that they are repudiationists; both claim to be willing to pay the debts and every dollar of interest that the State can bear, but they differ as to the means of doing it. The debt payers or funders, as they are called, claim that the present McCuilough bill is the true IMPERFECTIONS OF THE M'CULLOUGH BILL.

Mr. Hoxxx-I regard it as a monstrosity. If the question were simply one of refunding the six per cent consols, and the "peeler" bonds into bonds bearing the rate of interest provided by the bill, even if these latter bore tax receivable coupons, I should be for the bill; but it is not. The State of Virginia deals with a set of men who don't own the bonds and don't represent those who do own them, and don't even pretend that they do. There is no contract which can bind any human being to refund his bonds, and the result will be that the syndicate created by this law will fund all the bonds it can get; it having the sole right under the law to re fund-will get its commissions on the refunding and then will quietly drop the matter. We shall then have the spectacle of a debt divided into three

four per cent.

Second—The present six per cent bond, with tar

Second—The present six per cent bond, with tax receivable coupon.

Third—The unfunded balance of the "peeler" bonds bearing nominally six per cent interest, but really drawing none.

As a means of "forcible readjustment" the Legislature embodied in the McCullough bill a measure known as the Allen amendment, suthorixing four officers of the State "whenever the revenues of the State are insufficient," to issue "interest certificates, receivable for taxes, at seventy-five cents on the dollar." This was done to make the six per cent bond-holders tund their bonds; but its authors do not seem to have considered that in depreciating the taxpaying coupons of the old bonds they were depreciating at the same time the coupons of the new, and that even with twenty-five per cent off the old six per cent bond would still pay four and one-half per cent—half of one per cent more than the new. This measure practically delegates to these officers the power of discounting the credit of the State at twenty-five per cent every six months, and of taxing the State for years to come by the issue of these interest certificates "whenever the revenue of the State shall be insufficient."

Cornessondern—Do you believe that a majority of the republican party concurred with you in these views?

Mr. Hoxxy—I don't think that a majority of the

of the republican party concurred with you in these views?

Mr. Hoxxv—I don't think that a majority of the republican party thought or cared anything about the debt question. They voted as republicans for their own candidates wherever the local leaders would permit nominations to be made. In a letter published in the Richmond Whip, October 1, I advised this course, and had that advice been followed throughout the State I firmly believe that we would have had a majority in the Legislature. It is funny to hear the conservative press squeal became, as would permit nominations to be made. In a lotter published in the Richmond Waig, October 1, I advised this course, and had that advice been followed throughout the State I firmly believe that we would have had a majority in the Legislature. It is funny to hear the conservative press agueal because, as they say, tho republicans took no interest in the dest question, but did take an opportunity to desl a blow at the conservative party. Which is devoid of a particle of conservative party, which is devoid of a particle of conservative party, which is devoid of a particle of conservative party, which is devoid of a particle of conservative party, which is devoid of a particle of conservative party, which is devoid of the republican party in 1809, it has devoided all its energies to the breaking down of the republican party in 1809, it has devoided all its energies to the breaking down of the republican party in 1809, it has devoided all its energies to the breaking down of the republican party. It adopted in 1875, a constitutional mannerment requiring the propayment of a capital and a party in 1809, it has devoided all its energies to the the party of the party and can't tell what its course will be I hope, however, that on questions outside of the State officers, which have returned to page it. I think I can see in all this a pressage of a similar condition of the obnoxious laws of which I have spoken, and also a due recognition as to some of the State offices, which have returned to plague it. I think I can see in all the say of the party in the different States, under different names, to supp

CONSULAR AGENTS COMPLAINED OF,

Many complaints have been made of late by owners and captains of vessels that newspapers containing interesting news, which were sent to con signees in care of American Consular agents abroad have not been delivered to the proper parties. shipping agent of this city called the attention of the Postmaster General to this fact and received a reply that the matter had been referred to Secretary Evarts. Yesterday he was informed in a letter from Mr. W. Hunter, Second Assistant Secretary of State, that the complaint would be investigated, and, if it should be found that the fault rested with the Con-sular agents, the matter would be remedied,